

# SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO **ASSEMBLY, No. 1944**

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2016

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1944.

This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to automatically register to vote or automatically update a person's voter registration as part of the process of applying for or renewing a driver's license.

Under current law, each applicant for a driver's license or renewal of an existing license is offered an opportunity to simultaneously register to vote. The bill provides that the MVC would automatically register to vote any person who applies for a special learner's permit, examination permit, probationary driver's license, basic driver's license, or nondriver identification card, or for renewal of any license or identification card, according to the permanent address provided by the applicant, unless the applicant specifically declines the automatic voter registration.

The chief administrator of the MVC would forward the personal information required to register to vote to the Division of Elections in the Department of State in an electronic format. Submission of an application would serve as consent to be registered to vote at the permanent address provided by the applicant, unless the applicant specifically declines the automatic registration.

As amended, the bill requires the chief administrator to provide for a statement to be printed on the application for a special learner's permit, an examination permit, a provisional driver's license, a basic driver's license, or a nondriver identification card informing the applicant that by submitting the application, the applicant is consenting to register to vote and is legally permitted to vote. A separate statement must be printed on the application, in bold-faced capital letters, notifying the applicant that victims of domestic violence or stalking may decline the automatic voter registration and register to vote without disclosing the applicant's street address.

Lastly, the bill, as amended, provides that a person who is not entitled to vote that becomes registered through the automatic registration provided for in the bill will not be guilty of fraudulently voting or attempting to fraudulently vote so long as the person does not willfully vote or attempt to vote knowing he is not entitled to vote.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1228 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1944 which was also reported by the committee on this date with committee amendments.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee amended the bill to require the chief administrator of the MVC to provide for a statement to be printed on the application for a license or identification card, which notifies applicants that victims of domestic violence or stalking may decline the automatic registration provided for in this bill and register to vote without disclosing their street address. The amendments also provide that a person who is not entitled to vote that becomes registered through the automatic registration provided for in the bill will not be guilty of fraudulently voting or attempting to fraudulently vote so long as the person does not willfully vote or attempt to vote knowing he is not entitled to vote.